FBI-1a (Rev. 9-7-60)

REPORT
of the
FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: Dr. Jesse E. Curry
Chief of Police
Dallas, Texas

March 30, 1964
Airmail

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS,
TEXAS; MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
CONCERNING

YOUR NO.
FBI FILE NO.
LAB. NO. [illegible]

Examination requested by: FBI, Dallas

Reference: Letter from FBI, Dallas on 3/16/64

Examination requested: Firearms - Spectrographic

Specimens:

Evidence listed on attached page received from FBI, Dallas on 3/18/64

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CC:bm (13)

C351 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 1)
C352 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 2)
C353 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 3)

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Results of examination:

The C351 bullet is a caliber .38 Special copper-coated lead bullet of Winchester-Western manufacture. This bullet weighs 154.1 grains and was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

The C352 bullet is a caliber .38 Special lead bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture. This bullet weighs 154.5 grains. It was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

The C353 bullet is a copper-coated lead bullet of Winchester-Western manufacture. This bullet weighs 155.7 grains and was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

A portion of the surface of each bullet, C351, C352 and C353, is mutilated; however, microscopic marks remain on these bullets for comparison purposes. The C351, C352 and C353 bullets were compared with each other and with test bullets obtained from Oswald's revolver, C13, the .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, Serial No. V21C313, Assembly No. 62246. No conclusion could be reached as to whether or not C351 through C353 were fired from the same weapon or whether or not they were fired from C13. In addition, it was found that even consecutive .38 Special bullets test fired from the C13 revolver could not be identified with each other. In this connection, it should be noted that the barrel of C13 was designed for .38 S & W bullets and, therefore, it is slightly larger in diameter than barrels designed for .38 Special bullets. Firing of undersized bullets could cause erratic passage of the bullets down the barrel, resulting in individual microscopic characteristics which are not consistent. The barrel of the weapon could also be changing due to the accumulation of lead in the barrel or to wear. That one or both of the above conditions existed is apparent from the fact that consecutive .38 Special test bullets obtained from the C13 revolver could not be identified with each other.

Smith and Wesson revolvers such as C13 are among the weapons producing general rifling characteristics of the type found on C351, C352 and C353.

The lead alloy of the C351, C353 and C13 (the first bullet submitted by the Dallas Police Department in the Tippit case) Winchester-Western copper-coated bullets was spectrographically

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examined. This lead alloy was found to be qualitatively similar in composition to the lead alloy of the Western copper-coated bullets in the C51, C52, C55, C56, C57, C58, C59 and C137 cartridges. It is noted that these cartridges were among those obtained from the C15 revolver, Lee Harvey Oswald's pocket and the U. S. Secret Service.

The lead alloy comprising the C52 Remington-Peters bullet was spectrographically examined and found to be qualitatively similar in composition to the lead alloy comprising the Remington-Peters bullets in the C53, C54 and C133 cartridges, the remaining cartridges from the above sources.

Specimens C51 through C53 are being retained in the FBI Laboratory.